

CLAIMS

1. A reagent container comprising one or more liquid-containing units for containing a reagent, and a thermostat container provided so as to surround at least one of said liquid-containing units, wherein a heating agent or a cooling agent for heating or cooling said liquid-containing unit is provided inside said thermostat container, but outside said liquid-containing unit surrounded by said thermostat container.
2. A reagent container according to claim 1, wherein said thermostat container comprises an aperture section and/or a mouth section which enables the transfer of a substance such as a gas between the inside of the thermostat container and the outside.
- 10 3. A reagent container according to either one of claim 1 and claim 2, wherein said thermostat container is secured to said liquid-containing unit surrounded by said thermostat container.
4. A reagent container according to either one of claim 1 and claim 2, wherein said thermostat container is removable from said liquid-containing unit surrounded by said thermostat container.
- 15 5. A reagent container according to any one of claim 2 through claim 4, wherein said cooling agent or heating agent is supplied from outside said thermostat container to the inside through said aperture section and/or mouth section in said thermostat container.
6. A reagent container according to any one of claim 1 through claim 5, wherein all or some 20 of said liquid-containing units contain a predetermined reagent, and the openings of at least those liquid-containing units that contain said reagent are sealed with a peelable or perforable sealing film.
7. A reagent container according to any one of claim 2 through claim 6, wherein said aperture section is sealed by a peelable or perforable sealing film.

8. A reagent container according to any one of claim 1 through claim 7, wherein said reagent container comprises a base section, and said liquid-containing units and the thermostat container are provided on said base section so that the openings and/or aperture sections of said liquid-containing units are located at said base section.
- 5 9. A reagent container according to any one of claim 1 through claim 8, wherein said reagent container comprises a plurality of thermostat containers, and each thermostat container is set up to maintain a different temperature.
10. A reagent container according to any one of claim 1 through claim 9, wherein a temperature-sensing element having a temperature-sensitive substance which senses the temperature of said thermostat container and visually indicates a change in temperature, is provided on said plurality of thermostat containers, or on the base section in the vicinity thereof.
11. A reagent container according to any one of claim 1 through claim 10, wherein said base section comprises one or more tube fitting sections, into which a liquid-containing unit or a thermostat container can be detachably fitted.
- 15 12. A reagent container comprising: a base section, one or more liquid-containing units for containing a reagent;
 - a thermostat container provided so as to surround at least one of the liquid-containing units;
 - 20 a heating agent or a cooling agent for heating or cooling said liquid-containing units, provided inside said thermostat container, but outside said liquid-containing unit surrounded by said thermostat container;
 - an aperture section which is provided on said base section, and which enables gases to pass between said thermostat container and the outside; and

a sealing film affixed to the top of said base section in a peelable or perforable manner which, with all or some of said liquid-containing units containing a reagent, seals the openings and said aperture sections of at least those liquid-containing units which contain a reagent.

- 5 13. A reagent container comprising one or more liquid-containing units for containing a reagent, and a thermostat member which forms all or part of a wall of at least one of said liquid-containing units, and said thermostat member heats or cools the inside of said liquid-containing unit in accordance with on an external signal.
14. A reagent container according to claim 13, wherein an internal surface of said wall faces the inside of the liquid-containing unit, an external surface of the wall is outside the liquid-containing unit, and an area between the internal and external surfaces is integrally formed.
15. A reagent container according to either one of claim 13 and claim 14, wherein said thermostat member comprises a conductive member having a predetermined electrical resistance, and said signal is an electromagnetic signal.
16. A reagent container according to any one of claim 13 through claim 15, wherein a contact section which receives electrical signals by contacting a terminal of an electromagnetic supply provided outside the reagent container, is provided in said reagent container.
- 20 17. A reagent container according to any one of claim 13 through claim 16, wherein the conductive member, forms a wall of said liquid-containing unit, covers said wall, is built into said wall, or is attached to said wall.
18. A reagent container according to any one of claim 13 through claim 17, wherein said wall of said liquid-containing unit comprises a frame having a gap, a slot or an aperture, and

a film-shaped member or a thin plate is provided so as to cover said gap, slot or aperture in said frame.